

The Whalesong



Garrett supports student concerns

By John Sonin and Shana Crondahl
The Whalesong

"UAS Student Body President Casett Garrett has some ambitious goals for this year. In fact, she would like to leave a legacy that touches every student on campus. Her priorities include educating and involving more people in student government, amending the student government constitution to change the policy governing student clubs, and to make sure students fill out a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) each year.

"I would like every student to be positively affected by my administration," Garrett said in a recent interview with The Whalesong.

In addition to her goals for the year, she voiced concern for several issues. Garrett is concerned about rising tuition costs, state support for the university, staff retention, lack of on-campus childcare, and the future of the Gitkov and Mourant buildings.

One of Garrett's biggest goals is to increase awareness of student government. "Student government officials are the voice of the student body,"



<http://gov.alaska.edu/home/Who/students>

Casett Garrett works to meet students' needs.

Garrett said, adding that students need to know they can come to them at any time to express their concerns. To improve access to student govern-

See Casett page 5

From Jamaica to UAS

By Sandra Galeana
The Whalesong

Coming from Jamaica, Kaci Hamilton made the decision of her life. In 2002 Kaci took a flight from summer all the time in Jamaica to the cold town of Valdez. The first morning in Alaska, Kaci awoke at 10 a.m. and looked outside. The sky was still dark and a foot of snow covered the ground. She wanted to go home. In 2003, Kaci transferred to Juneau, where she began attending UAS.

S.G.: What made you come to Alaska and how did you end up going to UAS?

K.H.: I decided I was going to have a radical experience somewhere outside the Lower 48 for school. I thought of Alaska and I thought of Hawaii. Hawaii-surf or Alaska-buy a whole new wardrobe and learn to snowboard. I chose Alaska.

S.G.: That is definitely radical.

K.H.: Yeah, just the whole seasons. Jamaica doesn't have seasons, Jamaica has summer, which is not a bad thing. Perpetual 80 degree weather can be really fun but I would kill to have grown up snowboarding because I am getting into it now. I would have loved to have had the chance to learn



Kaci sports her jet black Mohawk in New York.

it when I was younger. But people who are here say 'yeah one more season of snow, I would like to be on a tropical island right now.' You end up craving the opposite of what you are from after you have been there for a while.

S.G.: How do you like Juneau?

K.H.: I like it and I am definitely having fun here but still home is home and Jamaica is it for me. I am going to go back there eventually, but not right after graduation.

S.G.: What is your degree?

K.H.: English with a creative writing emphasis.

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So
CUTE
Pg 2



MECHANICAL
SANTAS
Pg. 6



NEW ORLEANS
Pg 8



STUDENT
EXCHANGE
Pg. 13

Congratulations to the Kellys



Photo by Jenn Legat

UAS is happy to offer our congratulations to Anna-Mariah and Beau Kelly on the birth of their first child—Amelia Jane Kelly.

Amelia was born on Monday, Nov. 7 at 7:43 p.m. She weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces.

The happy family returned home on Wednesday and is busily getting situated into their new lifestyle. The Kelly's dog, Brady, and ferret, Maketa, are also having to adapt to life with a new addition to the family.

Anna-Mariah has worked for the university since July of 2002 and has been the Administrative Assistant for Student Government, Activities, and Housing since the Fall of 2004. She is the energetic, smiling face you see when you go downstairs in the Mourant Building.

Anna-Mariah will be on maternity leave until February. She is doing very well and is enjoying being a new mommy. We all wish her the very best and can't wait for her return in February.

Congratulations!



UAS searches for new faculty for fall 2006

By Shana Crondahl
The Whalesong

UAS is advertising to fill five tenured faculty positions for the fall 2006 term. Two of the positions advertised are new, while the other three replace professors who have left over the last several years.

The two new positions are an assistant/associate professor of sociology and an assistant professor of art. The new sociology professor will bring to two the number of tenured sociology professors at UAS, and will somewhat expand course offerings for that discipline.

Brendan Kelly, Dean of Arts and Sciences said a second sociology professor "will likely introduce new courses in his/her particular area of expertise. That is a great benefit whenever we can have multiple faculty in a discipline; each has their specialty so we can diversify our offerings."

The professor of art is a tenure-track position that has been previously filled as a term position.

The three existing faculty positions being advertised are for an assistant professor of

psychology, an assistant professor of economics, and an assistant/associate professor of English.

Kelly said the psychology position vacancy was created when Professor Heather Nash left several years ago, the economics position vacancy was created when Ashley Ahrens took a job in Colorado at the end of last term, and the English position vacancy occurred when Professor Don Cecil retired at the end of last term. Cecil's classes have been taught by term professors this year.

Cachet Garrett, student body president sees a trend. "The university has a problem retaining staff and faculty. At the end of last semester we lost five of our favorite professors. There has been speculation that they have been offered better jobs. What's going on at UAS that UAS isn't the better job?" She asked.

But Kelly said vacant positions are a combination of many different factors: sometimes positions are replacements for retirees, sometimes faculty relocate for professional reasons, family obligations or personal reasons, or sometimes positions are newly created.

Jesse Dizard, Adjunct Associate Professor

of Sociology and Anthropology thinks UAS is doing as well as can be expected as it transitions from a junior college to a university, although there is always room for improvement. "UAS is responsive to adjunct needs, such as they are. And as part of the U of A system, UAS is a signatory to the newly negotiated contract for adjunct faculty which is, in my opinion, a pretty good contract."

"I wish we would do better on retention of faculty, there's a tremendous number of reasons why faculty leave. Every case is different," Kelly said. "It's preferable to have long term, as much stability in the faculty as possible. I'd like to do better. People tend to have strong feelings about the issue. It's not an issue that can be simplified to any one cause."

In addition to the five tenured faculty positions being advertised, UAS is advertising for part-time faculty; what better way to find those interesting people with Ph.D.'s hiding in our midst. As to any future vacancies students can expect, Kelly said there are no current pending retirements, and he is not aware of any faculty planning to leave for any other reasons at this time.



Campus Calendar

"The Flood of prints has turned reading into a process of gulping rather than savoring." -Warren Chappell

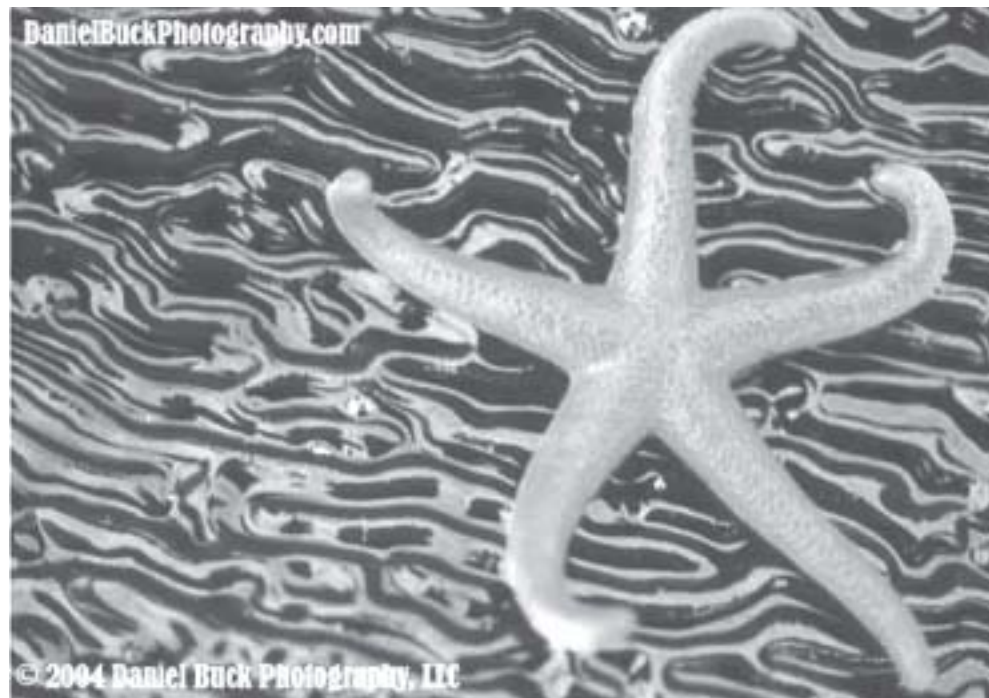


Photo by Daniel Buck,
www.danielbuckphotography.com

Dec. 2, 7:30-10:30 p.m., Global Gala, Lodge
 Dec. 4, 4:00 p.m., Holiday Sing, Noyes Pavilion
 Dec. 5-9, Stress Week
 Dec. 6, 3:00 p.m., Ice Cream Social, Mourant Cafe
 Dec. 9, 8:00 p.m., BCM, Live music
 Dec. 10, 9:00 p.m., Holiday Dance
 Dec. 11, Start of Finals Week
 Dec. 11, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Childrens' Holiday Cookies and Crafts, Banfield Lobby
 Dec. 12-16, Bookstore - Used books buy back
 Dec. 12-16, Final Exams Week
 Dec. 20, Tuition and fees due for spring semester

Dec. 20, Grades due to Rec. and Registration
 Dec. 23-Jan 2, Holiday break. All campus buildings closed except housing
 Jan. 3, Campus Open
 Jan. 12, Housing move in
 Jan. 13, Student orientation
 Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m., UAS 50th Anniversary Tuxedo Junction, Egan Wing
 Jan. 16, Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday campus closed
 Jan. 17, First day of class
 Jan. 18, 3p.m., Ice cream social Mourant Cafe
 Mondays, 6:30p.m., Womans rock climbing club
 Every Wednesday, 7:30p.m., Volleyball

If you would like to see your photo in this spot, please email it to us in jpeg format at uaswhalesong@yahoo.com

Let us know what's going on in your corner of campus! Send your calendar events and birthdays you want announced to uaswhalesong@yahoo.com

Campus Announcements

Deadline for exchange scholarship

It is currently "application season" for the 2006-2007 National Security Education Program (NSEP) David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarship competition. Created in 1991, NSEP awards scholarships to American students for study of world regions critical to U.S. interests (including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East).

The 2006-2007 NSEP Boren Scholarships offer funding for study abroad in summer 2006, fall 2006, and/or spring 2007. The deadline for applications is Feb. 10, 2006. Information and the online application are available on the NSEP website: www.iie.org/nsep. For more information please call 1-800-618-6737, send email to nsep@iie.org or contact Susan directly with any questions.

Come see "The Nutcracker" at JDHS

Juneau Dance Unlimited (JDU) will be presenting "The Nutcracker" at JDHS Auditorium on Thursday, December 15 at and Friday, December 16 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7.50 for ages 12 and under and students, and \$15 for adults. Tickets are available through the JDU office or at the door. For more information please call 463-LEAP.

Help with Heifer Project International

The Global Connections Club is doing a service project to raise money for Heifer International. During December you will see donation jars around campus. We encourage you to drop a dollar or two, or the coins in your pocket into the jars, to support Heifer Project International. You are helping us reach out across the world this holiday season.

Heifer Project International works toward dreams like these through people like you. You can change the lives of people you will never meet, but who dream under the same stars you do. They dream of enough food, of the opportunity to send their children to school, and of brighter future.

A Living Gift Market "sells" food- and income-producing animals like goats, bees, chicks and heifers. The animals go to hungry, rural families working to improve their lives.

Annual Global Gala



A celebration of student culture in the UAS community!

Students in the spotlight

Performances will include:



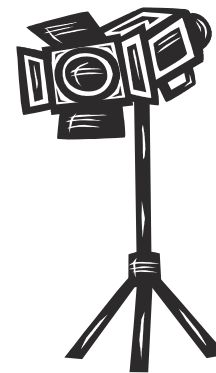
Singing

Dancing

Music

Story Telling

Recipes from around the world



Dec. 2 at Rec. Center 7 to 10 p.m.

Free to all UAS students!

Contact Marsha Squires at 796-6455 or Chris Washko at 796-6382
 National Student Exchange & ISEP Programs

The Whalesong

The student voice
of UAS

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The University of Alaska Southeast student newspaper, *The Whalesong*, is a free bi-monthly publication with a circulation of 1000 copies per issue. The Whalesong's primary audience includes students, faculty, staff, and community members.

The Whalesong will strive to inform and entertain its readers, analyze and provide commentary on the news, and serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas.

The staff of *The Whalesong* values freedom of expression and encourages reader response. *The Whalesong* editorial staff assumes no responsibility for the content of material. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska, and reflect only those of the author(s).

Opinion

"Advertisements contain the only truth to be relied on in a newspaper." Thomas Jefferson

A student speaks out in response to Sonin's "The end of democracy"

Michael O'Hollaren
Whalesong Contributor

I was appalled with the rhetoric and "train-wreck" of words in John Sonin's column, "the end of democracy!" It would appear that an individual whose name is listed in the masthead as a reporter could write and write with some sense of knowledge. Mr. Sonin you start out your column with errors that show you are very uneducated as to just what this country is and how it is governed.

Do you forget that this country has been ruined for the last 40 years by a socialist and very liberal gang called the Democratic Party?

Your first sentence makes no sense at all! You are in love with words and your column is a train wreck of an idea running off in all directions!

Your beloved Democrats can hold run-off elections any time they want. But why in common sense would they

do it now? Of course one reason for the Democrats to do it is because they have nothing positive to toss into the arena.

*"What positive effort
has the liberal left
done in the last
six years?"*

I challenge you to identify one single positive element your left wing socialist party has ever presented to the public in 20 years. What positive effort has the liberal left done in the last six years? They have screamed about poverty and thrown trillions at it and nothing has changed

It was Carter who ran the home interest rate too high so no one could buy. Carter caused the lines for gasoline to run around the block. It was Clinton

who sold our defense secrets to China for campaign funds.

If our nation is such a pariah as you state, why then do peoples from all over the world clamor to get here? If so, why is our country the leading technological nation? Why has all known technology been developed here?

We have no "democracy" to be made into a sham. This is a republic.

This "sleeping giant" as you called it is here and safe and secure and prosperous because we are a free republic and the economy is driven by capitalism. It is capitalism, sir, that gives you all you have!

For the last 30 years the Democrats, in their absolute control of power, have changed our constitution through conspiracy and dishonesty. They scream like spoiled children because the highest court may not be under their control once again. They might not be

See Train Wreck, pg.7

A revolution to conquer apathy

By Stuart Thompson
Whalesong Contributor

In his famous constitutional convention speech, Ben Franklin made this prediction: "Sir, I agree to this constitution, with all its faults, if they are such; because I think a general government necessary for us, and there is no form of government but what may be a blessing to the people if well administered; and I believe further that this is likely to be well administered for a course of years, and can only end in despotism as other forms have done before it when the people shall become so corrupted as to need despotic government, being incapable of any other."

How far has this prediction come true? Well, by law America is a constitutional republic using the people's will and ideas through representation. In practice, state and federal governments are benevolent elected monar-


chies, aided and abetted by elected nobilities, and guided by an aristocracy of experts. Indeed, government by even well-meaning officials is being visibly controlled by this supreme principle: "Bullying and constituent appeasement talks. Cooperation and civic participation walks."

Americans permit this by how we define "represent." The original and still basic definition is "re" (again) plus "present" (show ... ideas, etc.). In government use and in modernized dictionaries, this definition has been superceded by "act as an agent in behalf of." Poor infrastructure for collecting and using constituent thinking is a result.

Ironically, this government by benevolent elected agents uses the same justification as historical aristocracies: in general, people aren't sufficiently informed, ethical, nor inclined enough to participate in government. Yet his-

tory testifies that the problem solving capability of many people working in concert is greater than that of a benevolent few working on behalf of the many.

*"It will occur when a
majority of Americans
willingly adopt the
orthodox definition of
"represent" concerning
American government."*

So this citizen predicts a revolution conquering citizen apathy and repetitive U.S. political problems. It will occur when a majority of Americans willingly adopt the orthodox definition of "represent" concerning American government. 

From Cachet page 1

ment, Garrett and UAS student government senators have reorganized their office and instituted regular office hours. “Between the hours of eight and five, a student government representative is in this office at all times,” said Garrett.

As to amending the student government constitution, Garrett said the reason it needs to be amended is because there are parts that don’t make sense and aren’t followed.

She would also like to change how clubs are organized. Student government wants to “set the clubs free, so that they don’t have to come to us and ask permission to be a club,” Garrett said.

Improving and maintaining access to higher education is a priority of student government, which is why Garrett said student government is stressing the need for students to fill out their FAFSA. Annual submission of a FAFSA is necessary for most types of financial aid, including loans and scholarships. (Students should contact the financial aid office at 796-6255 or http://www.uas.alaska.edu/financial_aid for more information).

Accessibility is also the reason Garrett is concerned about the rising cost of tuition. She doesn’t like that the university has planned several years of tuition increases in a row. “President Mark Hamilton has proposed a 17 percent tuition increase. He’s asking for 10 percent for 2007, and 7 percent in 2008. I think the majority of students in Alaska do not want to see a tuition increase, especially 17 percent voted on in 2005 for 2007 and 2008. I think students would rather see year-by-year facts presented by the tuition increases necessary, and then vote on it for the following year, instead of two years ahead, like what they’re doing,” Garrett said.

Garrett is afraid that if tuition is raised too much, Alaska will have trouble retaining students. She said, “Alaska needs to support Alaska public university and educate its own people to do jobs in Alaska.”

“Basically, tuition at state schools ought to be funded by the state legislature. Our state legislature is proposing things like the land grant, where they want the university to make their own money to support themselves. I don’t know in what system in the world that is done, but in America, which is a free, democratic nation, my idea of a university is available to anyone, no matter what your background, no matter what class you are in. School needs to be funded. It needs to be reasonably priced so that you don’t see stratification of the classes,” Garrett said.

“Student government wants to ‘set the clubs free, so that they don’t have to come to us and ask permission to be a club.’”

Another concern of hers is the proposed remodel of the lower level of the Maurant Building, and the moving of offices to the Gitkov Building (the former Student Activity Center). Garrett wants the student government to take an active role in the decision-making process for the projects. “This is a good time to point out that the Maurant Building is a student building and needs to remain a student building,” Garrett said. “What we see is the university is growing, and people don’t know how to deal with it, and what I consider the proper way, which is to keep students in mind, first and foremost. Sure we need office space, but we need classrooms.”

Garrett is concerned that “the Gitkov Building was for students, to take it away at this point is an injustice. Instead, it should be filled with another student service. Instead, it’s more offices and administration. The administration always wants to increase administration. Well, I’m a student and I

want to increase students. My proposal is that that building should either be more classrooms or a student services building.”

She said, “I support having faculty offices right on campus, because they need to be close to their classrooms, but the offices that don’t help students directly can be a little removed. But what they want to do is move the offices at the Bill Ray Building to the Gitkov Building, and that’s unfortunate, because that building has a view of Auke Bay.”

Garrett envisions the Gitkov Building as an attraction to potential students. “If we had student registration in that building, the first thing new students would see is how beautiful Auke Bay is. We have the most beautiful campus in Alaska, probably in the United States. We need to maximize on that and forget about offices everywhere.”

The last concern mentioned by Garrett was retention of faculty, an issue with which Garrett believes the university has a problem.

Garrett brought up two events which will occur during spring semester. One is the annual Legislative Affairs Conference, which will be in February 2006. UA students and staff from all over the state will gather in Juneau to meet and to lobby the legislature. The other is the Banff Film Festival, which will occur at the end of that same week. The film will be shown on both Thursday and Friday, and all proceeds will go to student government for supporting scholarships.

In closing, Garrett told us a little bit about her plans for the future. In May 2006 she is going on the UAS trip to France with Virginie Duverger and Robin Walz, and she encourages other students interested in the trip to contact Duverger or Walz. Garrett would like to join the Peace Corps and travel the world when she graduates. She also hopes to go to graduate school, either for French or business. Her ultimate career goal is to own a health spa focusing on natural healing, yoga, karate, massage, ayurveda, aromatherapy, and healthy eating. 🐋

Two Dudes

by Aaron Warner



Have a heart this holiday season

By Mark Bazer
Tribune Media Services
(KRT)

As Christmas draws near and thoughts of spending time with loved ones begin to warm the heart, please take a moment to reflect on how you can help those who are less fortunate. There are currently more than 1.8 million people in this country who will spend this holiday season working at large pharmacies in close proximity to mechanical, 4-foot-tall, singing Santa Clauses.

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration estimates that from November through the end of the year, these 1.8 million hard-working Americans will be subjected to 10.5 billion renditions of "Jingle Bells," 23.9 billion renditions of "Frosty the Snowman" and 75 billion recitations of the festive holiday greeting "Ho, ho, ho" (that's a total of 225 billion individual "ho's").

As a result, these pharmacy employees will swallow 3.3 billion doses of Excedrin, stick 137.8 million ear-plugs or other available objects into their ears, and contemplate moving to Iran 1.4 trillion times. But statistics only tell part of the story. Santa tells the other part, as he is able to recite "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" whenever customers press the green button on his plastic belly. And they press it a lot.

It is also impossible to quantify the frustration that results when store managers threaten to fire employees



<http://nasw.org/users/appell/Weblog/santa.jpg>

Mechanical Santa drives pharmacy employees insane over the Christmas holiday. Ho ho ho, ho ho ho, ho ho ho, ho ho ho, ho ho ho, ho ho ho, ho ho ho, ho ho ho, ho ho ho, ho ho ho, ho ho ho.

who punch in the nose of a mechanical, 4-foot-tall, singing Santa Claus that won't shut up. To add injury to insult, should an employee decide to administer a beating to a singing Santa anyway, nearly all store managers will fire that employee before he can use his employee discount to purchase a bandage for his hand.

The detrimental effects of mechanical, 4-foot-tall, singing Santa Clauses that won't shut up do not stop at a pharmacy's automatic doors.

Indeed, they can be felt far beyond. Studies show that after their shifts, pharmacy employees often take their Santa rage with them, into their homes and communities. In the past five years, as the life expectancy of these mechanical Santas has increased significantly thanks to advances in battery science, incidences of violence against Christmas carolers have risen seventeen-fold.

There is hope, however, and that hope is you. For only \$69.99, the price of a Venti Half-Soy, Half-Skim, Pumpkin-Spice Latte With Extra Pumpkin, you can purchase a mechanical, 4-foot-tall, singing Santa Claus that won't shut up, and put a team of pharmacy employees out of their misery, at least until the store manager grabs another Santa from the stockroom.

However, if enough people heed this call, pharmacy stockrooms will run out of Santas, and then the distribution centers will run out, too, and, with luck, eventually China will as well. And perhaps, on Christmas Eve, those pharmacy employees stuck at work will at least be able to truly enjoy a Silent Night.

We know that, during this season of gift-giving, your household budget is tight. We know that you've already given to many other worthy causes this year. Frankly, we know a lot about you. And one of the things we know is that you don't like to see people suffer, unless they are people you don't like. So, please, together, and only together, we can grant some peace and solace to those who over the years have so discreetly rung up our antidepressants and Ding Dongs.

Please note: We are not asking you to bring a mechanical, 4-foot-tall, singing Santa Claus that won't shut up into your home. And we are not liable for anything that may happen should you do so. Instead, we ask only that you properly discard your Santa. To help in that effort, during this holiday season we will be providing 4-foot-tall trash receptacles outside every major pharmacy.

Every evening, our trucks will deliver the discarded Santas to a central garbage dump out of earshot of all Americans, except, of course, those 27 individuals who work at the dump. We are currently drawing up a campaign to help these people. ➤

PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

New and Classic Images by Daniel Buck



Opening Reception

Friday, Dec 2nd

5-9pm

food and live jazz
music with Tom Locher

Saturday, Dec 3rd

11am-5pm

Sunday, Dec 4th

12-5pm

AdLib

231 South Franklin Street
next to Galligaskins and the Glory Hole

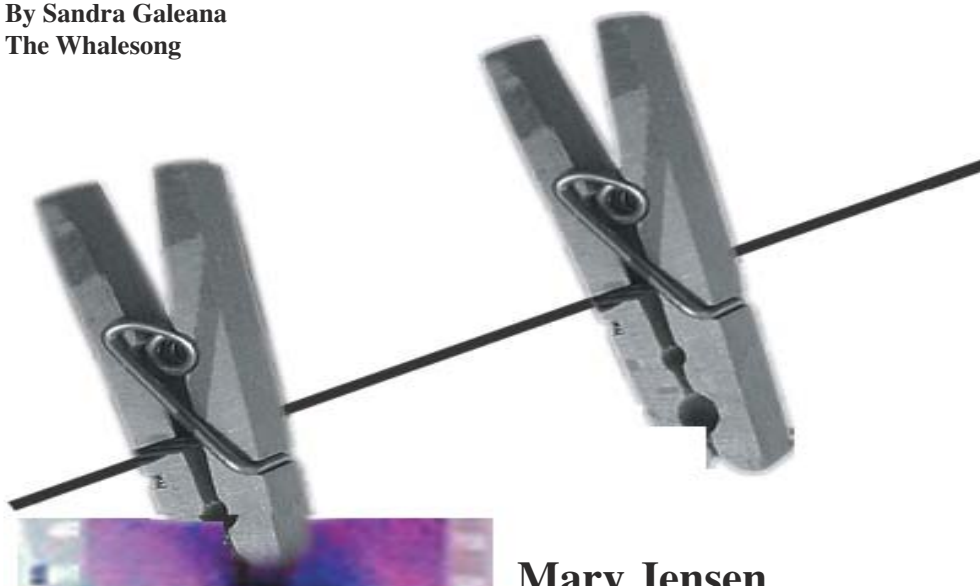
DANIELBUCKPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



Campus poll

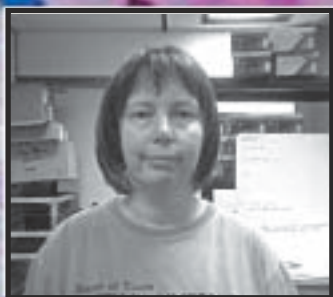
How do you survive Finals Week?

By Sandra Galeana
The Whalesong



Mary Jensen

I take classes that don't require finals. I take English classes that require 15 page essays. If they do have finals, they are thought provoking instead of memorization, where I have had the opportunity to master the lecturer's expertise.



Heather Horton

Do I survive finals week?



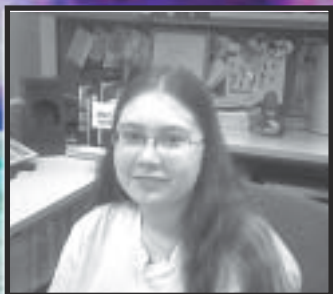
Deseray Fanning

I have never been really stressed out on finals week. If I know it, great. If I don't...great.



Heather Okland

It's just like any other week. I am pretty much never stressed.



From Train Wreck, pg. 4

able to pass laws by judicial edict when they cannot through the constitutional processes. Whether or not to confirm a constitutional adherent, might be a better description of the current nominees to the high court.

Over the last few years the liberal left, socialist Democrats have completely ignored the constitution and created law in areas the original document never speaks to. The Democrats have legislated by judicial edict for many years. If they could not get their way through Congress, they did it through the courts.

There is nothing in the constitution that says that there must be separation of church and state. It simply says, "government cannot form a religion!" That is all, nothing more. The goobly gook that we are seeing now is using your terms, "a Democratic Train Wreck!"

There is a very specific statement in the constitution the forbids "Cruel and Unusual Punishment." Yet the Democrats have instituted laws that precisely approve it! Is not abortion very cruel and unusual punishment for that child who is killed in its earliest moments of life, who has done nothing to deserve this killing?

"There never has been a man in the White House as dirty, slimy, scummy and who lied as Clinton did"

You are completely wrong in your statement, "If you go to the polls as a Democrat, you will be able to select from a multitude of parties." That statement shows your ignorance of the election process. If you go to the polls as a registered Democrat, you will be able to vote only for the Democratic Party candidates! And eventually there will be only one Democrat candidate for the presidential office.

Your last attacks, personal as they are, are very typical of the Democrats.

If they cannot contribute positive legislation, or be the better man in a discussion or election, then they begin the personal attack.

There never has been a man in the White House as dirty, slimy, scummy and who lied as Clinton did, and still does, who turned the White House into a cat house! His last lie at the funeral for Rosa Parks is so laughable it is a wonder how he keeps a straight face. Lots of practice, I guess!

You call for social responsibility! Democrats are the epitome of hypocrisy. Senator Boxer wants to ban guns but she insists her bodyguard carry one.

"Democrats are the epitome of hypocrisy."


Hilary Clinton refused to allow Chelsea to have her ears pierced at 13, saying it would be too traumatic at her age. She is now, however, trying to force through laws to allow a 13 year old child to have an abortion without parental permission.

Senator Kennedy, who drives off a bridge, kills a young woman, then runs away to hide his guilt, is offered up as the paragon of ethics. A better current portrayal of Kennedy is climbing out of the water with a bottle of scotch in one pocket, a pair of panties in the other, and yelling for drug controls.

It is the Democrats who have and almost successively "Train Wrecked" our republic.

Fortunately, the Republicans will again take the White House and Congress and will rally to bring this country back from the darkest depths of depravity and financial depression we have known since our creation.

You say that it takes Democrats to insure that "not one candidate will achieve a plurality of voters." I might also remind you that it takes a plurality of votes to determine a winner.

This whole "train wreck" of an editorial is a very good indicator of the lack of knowledge, poor writing, really poor use of words and no real sentence structure. 

A sister's return to New Orleans

By Daniel Buck
The Whalesong

New Orleans. Stop and breathe in the words. Let them simmer in your senses for a minute. Even if you've never been to New Orleans, the mere utterance of these two words evokes sights, smells, sounds, and feelings that are deeply rooted in the rich southern history of our country.

Just thinking about it now, my body is overtaken by the trumpets and drums of Zydeco music, the tunes ringing through my ear. I swear that my heart beats to the music, and I feel as if I am one with the music. The sweet and spicy smells of Cajun jambalaya, crawfish, and raw oysters slathered in Tabasco sauce invade my sinuses and I instantly remember being in a loud, bustling club in the French Quarter.

Senses are amazing memory triggers, and that's all I have left of New Orleans. I only got to visit the city once, when I went down to visit my younger sister who lived there. I had the time of my life in New Orleans and fell in love with the city.

Little did I know that would be the

last time that I would see New Orleans, at least the last time before Hurricane Katrina. Thousands died and the city lies in ruins.

We all watched the television coverage of what happened, but events such as those often feel so distant and unreal to us here in Juneau. I decided that it was time for me to sit down and talk with my sister Meagan about what it was like to live in New Orleans, and her opinion on what it's like two months after the storm.

Meagan evacuated the city just before the storm. She was able to take shelter in Dallas, where she has decided to finish college.

D.B.: *When did you move to New Orleans?*

M.B.: I moved to New Orleans my freshmen year of college, August 2003. I was going to school at Loyola University near the campus of Tulane.

D.B.: *What drew you to the city in the first place?*

M.B.: I knew I wanted to go to school in a city and in the south.

I really liked the atmosphere of New Orleans; if you've ever been there



Photo by Meagan Buck

A perfect parallel parking job: this small boat is a reminder of the flooding that overtook some areas of New Orleans.

you know what I mean. It's something you can't describe. People there have a real zest for life.

D.B.: *What did you enjoy about living in New Orleans?*

M.B.: I loved how everyone there knew how to have a good time and made it a point to slow down and enjoy themselves. From Halloween to Mardi Gras, the people of New Orleans have traditions, and, as a visitor, you never really experience life the way someone who lives in New Orleans does.

D.B.: *What is your favorite area of New Orleans?*

M.B.: I don't think I could choose just one; each part had its own charm. But if I had to choose one, I would probably say the French Quarter (but not Bourbon Street!!!). Just one block over from Bourbon, there are these beautiful streets with art galleries and little unique shops. Jackson Square is right there and there are street musicians and artists everywhere. It is the best Saturday afternoon you could imagine, very relaxing.

D.B.: *When you moved to New Orleans, did you have any concerns about hurricanes?*

M.B.: The thought never crossed my mind. But the last big hurricane to hit Louisiana was Betsy in the late 1960's so it really wasn't in anyone's mind.

D.B.: *Did you have to evacuate the city previously because of hur-*

ricanes?

M.B.: I evacuated my sophomore year due to Ivan and it was horrible. The traffic was at a standstill for hours. We parked our cars and sat outside.

D.B.: *When you left, was there a lot of concern about the possible impact of Katrina?*

M.B.: There didn't seem to be as great a concern as there should have been, looking back at it now. Hurricanes always turn at the last minute (like Ivan last year), so people assumed this would be the case with Katrina. As I was driving to Dallas and listening to the radio, I think there was mounting concern, but still not a sizeable amount. People really didn't think it was going to hit New Orleans and could not grasp the catastrophe that was about to happen.

D.B.: *What was the mood of people like before the storm?*

M.B.: No one talked about the storm until the Saturday before it happened. I was out the Friday night before evacuations began and I had plans to go lay out at the pool the next day. People had no idea what was about to happen. Katrina was not a blurb on anyone's radar.

D.B.: *When did you decide to evacuate?*

M.B.: My friend called me at 9am Saturday, August 27th and told me evacuations were starting in the low-

See New Orleans Pg. 11



Photo by Meagan Buck

The streets of New Orleans are still littered with debris.

Intramural sports are back with a vengeance

By Lucia Ramirez & Lucas Mullen
Whalesong Contributors

Intramural sports are back at UAS with a vengeance! They were created for people to have fun and to socialize. Intramurals are another social event where students can meet other students and see professors out of the classroom. The sports allow faculty, staff and students to relax and just enjoy themselves on the courts.

If there is a specific sport that a person wanted to play in high school but never got a chance (i.e. basketball), intramural sports is the perfect solution. The student can come and learn all the game rules and lingo and then show off their newly learned skills at intramural games and impress all their friends. On the other hand, if there was a student who played basketball in high school, and would still like to play, intramurals can scratch their itch for basketball. Overall, intramural sports are for anyone who wants to learn a new sport, play an old sport, get a good workout, meet new people, or just have fun!

So what's happening with intramural sports now, you ask? We just finished our flag football and volleyball seasons. The faculty and staff once again took the Flag Football Championship by showing the students and National Guard team that age prevails over youth and that they should never be underestimated on the flag football field.

The Volleyball Championship was won by the student team Colleen and the Tuna Fish. At the moment, our basketball season is up and running full court with four teams: three student teams and one faculty and staff.

If you like to play soccer and floor hockey we have open gym for both on Monday nights: Indoor Floor Hockey from 5-7 p.m. and indoor soccer from 7-9 p.m.



Photo by Lucas Mullen

Left to Right: Adam Ellsworth, Shawn Kantola, Colleen Webb, Rekann Keppinger, Laura Ellsworth, Julie Patz, and Chris Trump. Not pictured: Ben Sheir, Brandon Droeger.

The Recreation Center not only has intramural sports, but it also has a climbing gym! The bigger and better climbing wall at the Recreation Center is open with more holds and better routes! There are more events than ever going on in the climbing gym to get climbers excited about using the new climbing gym, like climbing orientations and climbing competitions.

If you are a beginner and want to learn more about climbing, there are orientations twice a week: on Monday nights at 5 p.m. and Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. Also on Monday nights, the women's climbing session is at 6 p.m. It has been a big hit, so ladies

don't be shy, come show the guys how it's done. Every Sunday night at 7 p.m. the Climbing Club meets in the climbing gym to climb up, down and around and to talk about events and competitions. For everyone else who already knows the ropes, the climbing gym is always open during Rec Center hours, so come on up and rock the house!

If there is a specific sport or event or that you are interested in, you can email your suggestions to rec@uas.alaska.edu. All of these events are posted throughout campus on flyers and you can get more information by calling the Rec Center at (907) 796-6544 or visiting the help desk. 🐋



Left: A group of students get their volleyball game on. The new REC Center gives students a chance to join intramural sports

Photo by Lucas Mullen

Right: Check it out! Here is the new Outdoor Coordinator for the university Steffi Schrieber. Steffi will be organizing outdoor events for the weekends. If you are interested, come to the REC center and sign up.



*All students, faculty and staff
are invited to attend the
Chancellor's Holiday Party*



*Wednesday, December 14
Mourant Cafeteria
Open House from 3 - 5 p.m.*

*Live music, fabulous food, and a chance to
mingle with the UAS community!*

From New Orleans Pg. 8

lying parishes. I decided to evacuate probably around 10:30 and was out of my apartment by 12:30p.m.

D.B.: *Why did you decide to evacuate?*

M.B.: I evacuated because, if something were to happen, I didn't want to be stuck in a hotel (which is where a lot of people would go if a hurricane was coming) without power for a few days. Even though I really didn't think it was going to hit, I didn't want to take a chance and be stranded in New Orleans. My intuition told me to get out of there.

D.B.: *How long did it take you to drive out of the city?*

M.B.: I was stuck in traffic on the interstate in New Orleans for no more than an hour. I knew to get out of there as early as possible to avoid the traffic I had experienced during Ivan. If I had left 10 minutes later than I did, it would have probably taken me an additional 3 hours or more.

D.B.: *What were your impressions upon returning to New Orleans two months after Katrina?*

M.B.: I had watched the news and heard reports from some friends who had gone back, but nothing prepared me for what I saw. It was a ghost town, even two months after the hurricane hit. When we landed at the airport, there was one other plane and all the shops were closed and the gates empty. Many parts of the city have not been touched, the houses are abandoned, streets completely empty, abandoned cars and boats in the streets, and no power. Pictures can never convey the eerie feeling, it was so surreal. There are refrigerators in front yards or on sidewalks, and debris just lining the

street. The beautiful old trees are completely uprooted. Had I not known, I would think the hurricane had hit a week ago. It seems as if the city really hasn't made any progress. It was the saddest sight.

D.B.: *What was the mood of people after the storm?*

M.B.: It's hard to really say because we didn't encounter many people in the city. Even downtown and Bourbon were empty. People there seemed somber; no one seemed to be laughing, or even talking. It was eerily calm and quiet, unlike any city should be.

D.B.: *What images pop into your head when you think about your return to post-Katrina New Orleans?*

M.B.: I think about this one street I used to drive to school on everyday, it was in a very poor part of town. The Winn-Dixie was completely gutted and there were no other cars around us. It used to be a very busy street and it always had traffic. We drove down a side street and saw one dilapidated, abandoned house after another each one with the fluorescent orange markings. This area had not been touched in months, the people who lived here didn't have the means to return and they had nothing to return home to.

But there was one house with a family still living in it, and they were just sitting on the front step. Other than them, there wasn't another soul for miles, not a grocery store or drug store anywhere nearby.

The other image I will remember is the apartment I lived in last year. I drove by it and the roof didn't make it, windows were blown out. All the houses were bad, but seeing the one that I lived in really hit hard.

D.B.: *Why did you decide to move*

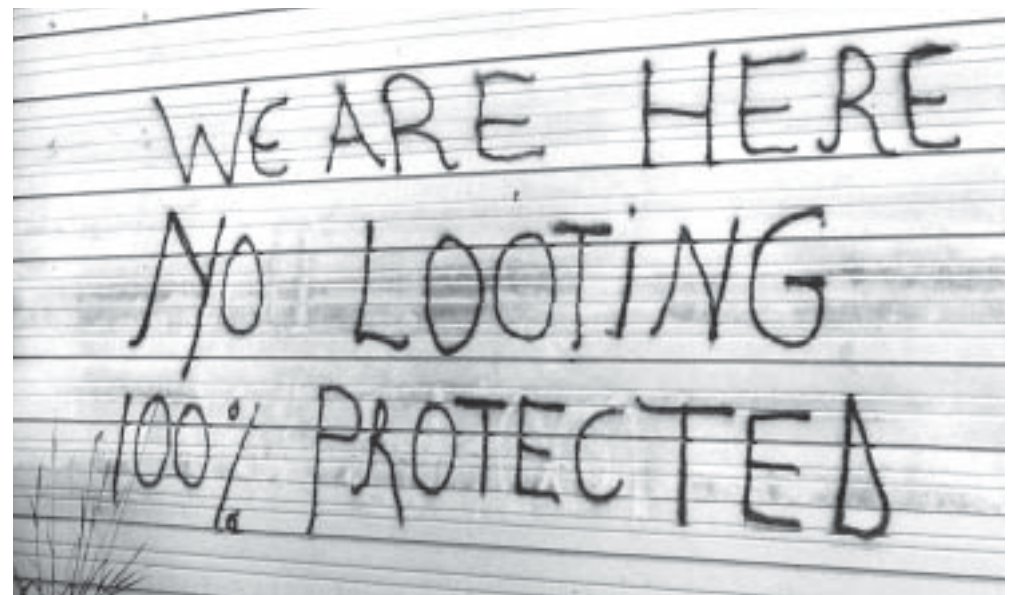


Photo by Meagan Buck

A warning to looters that a store owner is prepared to protect their property.

away from New Orleans?

M.B.: I don't think that city is going to be any better in January than it is now. Areas near campus still have no power and clean-up has not even started. I don't know if I could live a "normal" life if I did return. I think I would be haunted by the images on the news and the things I saw on my short visit there. I live across the street from the Superdome and the Convention Center and I think that I would be haunted by what happened there. The street I drive on everyday, the one my apartment is off of, was lined with dead bodies. I just don't see how I could go back and not be affected.

D.B.: *What is your opinion of the local and federal government's preparedness and response to Katrina?*

M.B.: I don't know if I can even talk about this without becoming infuriated. I am disgusted by the reaction of the government's actions on all levels. They did a poor job evacuating the city and preparing for what was coming. They knew what would happen; they had accurate predictions of how disastrous even a Category 3 Hurricane would be. After Katrina, they tried to rush people back into a city that was not ready to be repopulated. They are trying to make things seem better than they are because they want to get the city up and running, but they are lying to people and misinforming them on the actual condition of New Orleans.

D.B.: *Have you found closure with Katrina, and if you have, how did you do that?*

M.B.: I don't think I will ever truly find closure, I don't think I can ever truly be the same person I was before this happened. The weeks after the hur-

ricane hit I was a mess. Every time Katrina or New Orleans was mentioned I would just start to bawl. It's not that bad anymore, but my heart skips a beat when I hear these words. Even though I safely evacuated the city and my apartment didn't suffer any damage (I am one of the few lucky people who can say that), this was one of the worst experiences I have had to go through. Even now, over two months later, I still cannot believe it happened. Even after going to New Orleans and seeing the city with my own eyes, it doesn't seem real. I don't think it will ever seem real to me and I don't think I will ever think of Katrina or New Orleans and not feel sadness in my heart.



Photo by Meagan Buck

The winds and waters of hurricane Katrina caused extensive damage to the historic buildings of New Orleans.



Photo by Meagan Buck

A centuries-old tree is uprooted in front of a home. The spray paint on the front of the house tells rescuers if there were any survivors or deaths in the house.

Student Features

"I'm always saying something that's just the edge of something more." Robert Frost

Campus loses ultimate party animal: student housing is now much quieter

By Jess Coleman
The Whalesong

University of Alaska Southeast recently experienced the withdrawal of a student by the name of David Branch. To many staff and faculty members say he was a nuisance and a disruption some may even say a liability but to some of us he was nothing more than our friend. Dave as we called him, was removed from housing for alcohol consumption and domestic violence.

He was disciplined for two events one involving the Juneau Police in which he was arrested. Dave became the first student in UAS history arrested for "resisting release" a feat in which brings a great amount of shame, but is funny nonetheless.

As we fondly remember Dave we try not to look upon the bad things but remember the good and all that made Dave, "Compton ass Dave."

Many or all that had contact with Dave knew that he possessed a fondness for alcohol, and consuming it. It was evident by the inspirational beer posters that graced the walls of his room and apartments common areas, letting all know of the activities that took place there from dawn until dusk.

You may have also noticed the grass stains on his clothes that were the product of myself and James Shea leading him on drunken adventures through Alaska's wilds. Even if he did not know that we were only 10 feet off



Photo by Jenn Legat

Dave Branch, the ultimate college party animal, leaves UAS due to alcohol consumption and domestic violence.

the paved path. Spending all of his life in Houston he had little to no experience of conquering the occasional log or branch. Rather he would go in head first and usually end up on his back as did we from laughing so hard.

My fondest memory of being the guide on these adventures was making him believe that we could steal a yacht that was on a trailer by pushing it back to campus. Dave pushed with all his might as Shea and I held back the tears and pretended to pull. The next morning we filled him in on the events of the night and he swore he would never do it again; two nights later we had him convinced that the yacht was ours so Dave took his position and pushed.

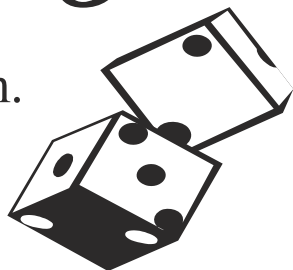
Needless to say Dave had a heart the size of Texas. He was always the one to look to for quotes that would brighten your night, when he was experiencing a lull with the ladies he came to me and mumbled, "I'll take Helen Keller."

I will miss my friend Dave and I will miss the laughs that we shared through good times and bad. I will miss running in his room and flipping his bed over at four in the a.m. just to hear him say "You son of a bitch." I believe that we can all learn something from Dave and his antics, even if it is only to shut up when the cops are letting you go.

Good bye Dave. 

Casino Night

December 10th at 9 p.m.
Rec. Center



Tables open from 9 to 11 p.m.
Dance 11p.m.to 1 a.m.



Food!



Prizes for UAS Students!

Vegas at UAS



Bring Your Poker Face
Instruction will be provided

UAS student's exchange in New Mexico

By Alex Bogolepov
Whalesong Contributor

After an epic trip such as this I feel that I can finally say it: I've seen New Mexico. We drove all around the state, which is a jewel for any nature enthusiast, particularly for those who are interested in geology.

Since New Mexico used to be a sea some 200 million years ago, there are places in the state where you can literally walk on fossils. And the horizons here... they seem to be endless. We drove through a couple of tall mountain passes and I could actually see the curvature of the earth.

Carlsbad Caverns are a marvel. Slowly wandering through halls, I felt as if I was in a huge gothic cathedral, and even though it was silent (except for the sighs of enchanted visitors), it was the loudest silence I had experienced. The caves sounded more like a choir with an organ in the background. You could immediately see where the stories of dwarves and mountain kings came from.

White Sands is pretty out of this world, it was so easy to get lost in the gypsum dunes. They have an odd disorienting effect, just like the caverns.

A thousand years ago in North America, all roads led to Chaco Can-

yon. The Anasazi were really pushing the limits with art, trade and architecture. By 1000 C.E. there were about 10 large pueblos in the canyon area, plus many more small villages and settlements, surrounding the three to five story pueblos.

This vibrant civilization seemed to leave the area because of a series of long droughts. But some archeologist folks suggest an internal revolt against the religious elites and the collapse of the social structure. My mood tends to brighten whenever I think about that possibility.

Where there is structure and hierarchy, there is also revolution. Something about humans...

Even today the ruins are enchanting, architecture so unique, I would say ENDEMIC. America before the Europeans is indeed striking.

Marsha, New Mexico is above and beyond any of my expectations. Every moment of living and studying here has altered me.

The deadline for the National Student Exchange program for Fall '06 and Spring '07 is Feb. 6. Now is the time to do the research and discuss your options with Marsha Squires, the Coordinator of Academic Exchanges and Study Abroad programs. To make an appointment, call 796-6000. ➔



Photo by Alex Bogolepov

Alex Bogolepov enjoys his surroundings while staying in New Mexico.



Photo by Alex Bogolepov

Alex Bogolepov took a trip through the archaeological ruins of the Anasazi.



Photo by Alex Bogolepov

Large doorways create a dizzying effect as they seem to create a doorway to another dimension.

Accidental involment in student government

By Jess Colman
The Whalesong


When I arrived at UAS I wanted to get involved right away. I needed a way to make friends and get in the swing of things immediately, I found it. It came in the way of a student senate seat as part of UAS's Student Government. I went in on a whim. I showed up to the senate debate expecting to watch and capitalize on a few free slices of pizza as well as get a feel for the core students at our University.

When walking in the door I was surprised when the mediator announced that our 8th candidate had arrived. After a few seconds and some coaxing by my friends, I took my seat and entered the debate, late. The following day, I began my campaign as a write in on the ballot. There were four seats available and at the end of the week, I secured one. So what now I asked as I went to my first government meeting not knowing what to expect? What I found was a group of people

that were truly committed to bettering the lives of students and faculty alike at UAS. I quickly found the "student first" attitude was exactly what I was looking for. In my university experience I discovered that I was never well informed on the doings of the Student Government.

One of our goals this year is to involve students in all we do, and keep them informed of events and issues that directly affect them. We are in the process of setting up a fire night at the Noyes Pavilion complete with hot chocolate, to give students a chance to meet members and express their concerns as well as to enjoy a relaxed evening with friends. Some of the main issues concerning student government at this time is the remodel of the bottom floor of the Mourant Building and how student interests are being taken into consideration.

A new student safety committee

was recently formed to address the needs of student welfare in going to and from campus especially in the winter months. We are looking into an overpass, which will enable a safer commute. The old SAC is also a hot topic as it may play a vital role in the shifting of offices and possibly the bookstore. Student government is also pushing students to fill out their F.A.F.S.A forms, which stand for "Free application for federal student aid," as well as to heighten awareness of the other scholarships and grants that are available to students throughout the year. Every year millions of dollars go unclaimed so as an incentive we are setting up small scholarships for a few lucky students who fill theirs out. If students have any questions, concerns or just want to get involved, please feel free to stop by our office and become part of the success that is UAS Student Government. 

English club has a holiday posset

By Mary Jensen
Whalesong Contributor

An English Club is in the process of formation on campus. Sandra Galeana interviewed Mary Jensen, who first suggested the idea:

S.G.: So Mary, what led you to suggest an English Club?

M.J.: In Sue Koester's class, "From Page to Stage," she mentioned that since there was no English Club, we probably wouldn't be performing for the holiday tea as had been done in previous years. This led me to talk to Nina Chordas about the holiday tea. She told me that if someone wanted to start up the English Club, we could have the holiday tea.

S.G.: There was an English Club on campus before?

M.J.: Evidently. It just didn't reform this semester and needed someone willing to be the student contact. When I threw out the idea to a couple of classes, I was surprised at the number of people interested, so we're on our way.

S.G.: What does an English Club typically do?

M.J.: Holiday teas! Also known as the winter posset. It's not going to take enormous amounts of time, but is just something to do for fun occasionally. It could encourage new people on campus and provide a supportive environment for us humanities people.

S.G.: "Posset" is an interesting

word. What's the history behind it?

M.J.: It's a medieval British word. Think of hot beverages, tea cakes and readings.

S.G.: Who's eligible to be in the club? Is it especially for literature majors?

M.J.: Anyone who's interested in literature, history, oral interpretation, or language would have a forum to express their interest. We're limiting the group to students at UAS, however.


S.G.: Besides the holiday tea, what other ideas for it are being considered?

M.J.: The club could sponsor events such as essay contests and poetry slams, and submit articles for the Whalesong.

S.G.: How can people join?

M.J.: They can reach me at my e-mail address. If they have any questions or comments about the idea, of course, they can send those. I'd need their e-mail address and their suggestions for a meeting time. It would help to have any ideas they'd like the group to consider.

S.G.: Do you have a meeting scheduled?

M.J.: The winter posset will be on December 6. I'll send out the best options for meeting time to everyone and find out what fits the most people. We'll need readers who would like to share a piece during the winter posset and people who would like to help set up. 

Chancellor John Pugh and the
UAS Student Alumni Association
invite you and your family to a

HOLIDAY SING

Noyes Pavilion at UAS

Featuring the Victorian Carolers
Accompanied by J. Allan MacKinnon

Date: Sunday, December 4

Time: 4 p.m.

Admission: FREE!

Free cookies & hot beverages served.

The entire community is welcome!

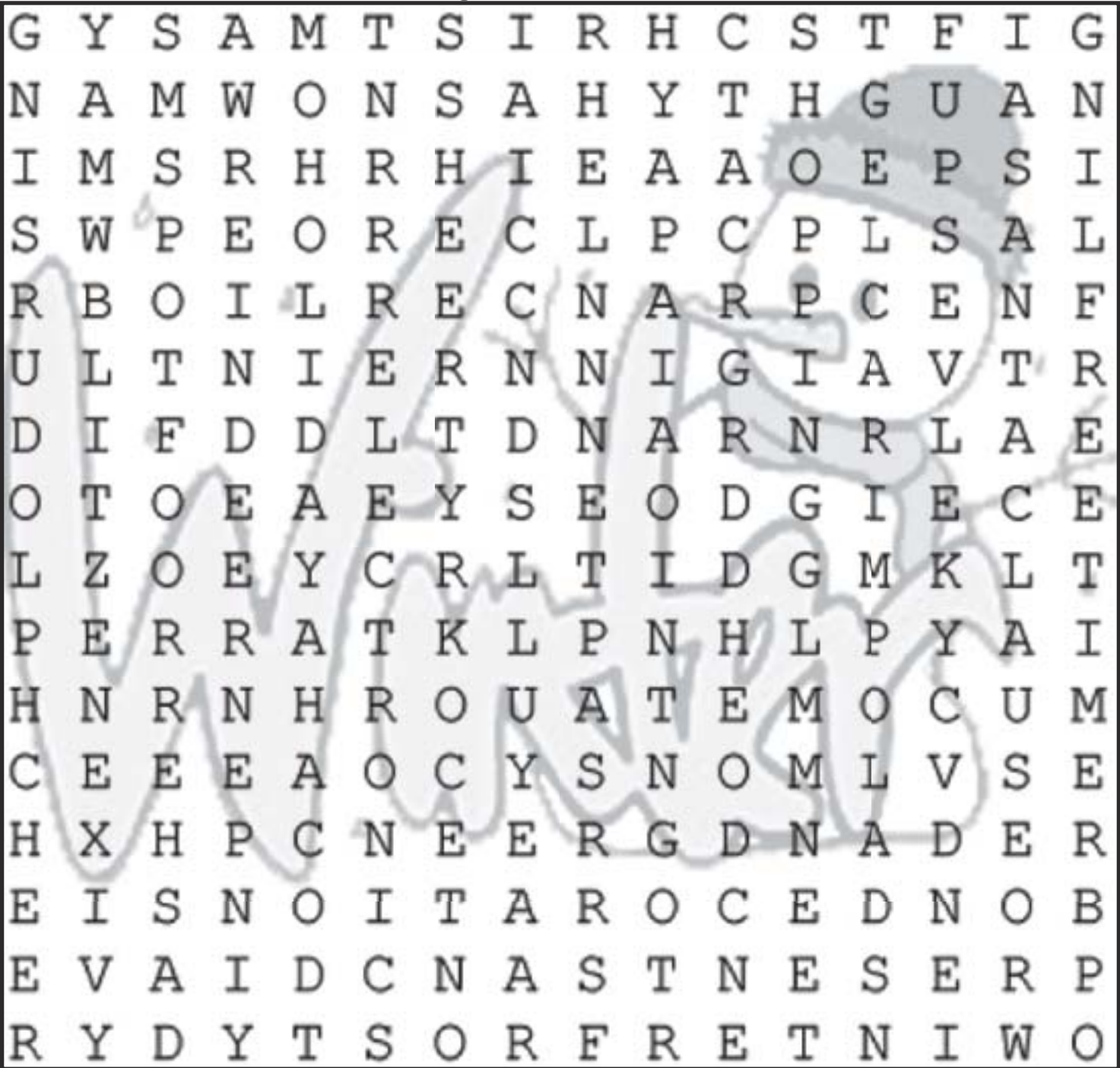


For more information call the
Alumni Office at 796-6569
www.uas.alaska.edu/alumni

Try this holiday wordsearch

Want Ads

Find the hidden message



- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Blitzen | Frosty | Red and green |
| Bond | Gifts | Reindeer |
| Candy cane | Grinch | Rooftops |
| Cheer | Holiday | Rudolph |
| Christmas | Lights | Santa clause |
| Comet | Love | Shopping |
| Cupid | Making a list | Sing |
| Dancer | Miracle | Snowman |
| Dasher | Naughty | Sparkle |
| Decorations | Nice | Toy |
| Donner | Ornaments | Tree |
| Electronics | Pay | Vixen |
| Elves | Peas | Winter |
| Fling | Prancer | Wonderland |
| Free time | Presents | Yam |

Wanted:
Large, 24 foot stocking full with cash. Hope to have it before semester begins in the spring.
Please call 444-CASH

Wanted:
I am looking for a good looking, non-clingy female willing to buy me a Ferarri for Christmas. If you think you are this type please call now!

Wanted:
Person with moderate political views to write an editorial for The Whalesong.

Wanted:
Desperate C seeks surly pirate. Preferably with experience in the squawking pelican.

Found:
4-foot plastic Santas in large garbage container. Please call 555-HOHO to claim.

Lost:
I am wooking fow my two fwont teef. I would wike to have them back by Chwithtmath. If you find them, pwease wetuwn them to me. thankth, Elmew Fudd

Avertissement:
Père Noël va coller le charbon dans votre chaussure si vous n’êtes pas bon!

The Whalesong Needs You!

Join Jour 294, 394, or 494 and become a part of the campus newspaper!

Class is once a week from 5:15-8:15 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you there!

From Color page 1

S.G.: What do you hope to accomplish? What are your goals?

K.H.: I want to write contemporary fiction novels, kinda like that sappy stuff you find on Oprah's Book Club. My goal is to write and to have people read my work and to make it question something in their life or about themselves. Even if it's the question, "Wow I wonder what papaya with lime taste like?" or "Man I am going to start figuring out what I am going to do after college." I just want somebody to step out of their box for a second based on having read something that I wrote and have it make them think differently.

S.G.: What is your favorite thing about UAS?

K.H.: Where this campus is. This campus is a slice of geographical heaven. How can it get better when the view from every building looks across the lake? My favorite view in Juneau is just when you are coming to campus and Auke Bay opens up and you get just enough to where you see the beginning of the towers.

S.G.: If you could change one thing about UAS, what would it be?

K.H.: The spirit of the students. I would absolutely love it if this school had more school spirit. I think it would be cool if everybody had something to rally around and be proud of UAS for, like a sports team or an event that happened. We don't have tail gate parties that people have before a game. That kind of communal spirit doesn't exist because we don't have too many things that get all the students together.

S.G.: I heard you took a semester in New Orleans.

K.H.: Actually I took a year, two semesters and a summer, from August 2004 to August 2005.

S.G.: How was that?

K.H.: It was intense. New Orleans is that scene in "Finding Nemo" when they get to that really fast moving current and they jump in. That current is New Orleans and you are this little fish moving along and all of a sudden you

think, 'Damn, this is really fast pace. I could get hurt jumping into this thing.' But you jump in and it works out.

It took a while for me to adjust there, but it was where I need to be based on where I was in my life. I am really grateful that I got to go when I did.

S.G.: Why was it where you needed to be?

K.H.: I was going through a rough time before I got there and it was a slap in the face telling me to jump up, get off the ground, and stop slobbering over myself. The energy of the place was like, "Get some balls the world is not coming to an end."

S.G.: What do you miss the most about New Orleans?

K.H.: My friends there. They're a cool bunch of people that were introducing me to cool, new stuff. It took a while for people to let me into their circle, but the circle that let me in shared pieces of New Orleans and pieces of themselves.

S.G.: Where were you and how did you feel when you found out about Hurricane Katrina and the devastation it caused?

K.H.: I was sleeping on my friend's couch because I had just arrived in town and I had gotten off the phone with my former roommate two days before. When I found out, I thought it didn't seem that bad. Two days after Katrina I went onto MSN.com and saw a picture of the flooding and my face started to flood. I had just been, on those streets, was just in those buildings, just ate in those restaurants and now it was all submerged. It was unbelievable. I felt like someone poured water into my house and filled it to the top. It was surreal and I felt like it was real at times because I knew exactly what I was looking at. I have pictures

of me on the interstate taking pictures with my camera through the sunroof of my car in the exact spots that were under water.

The pictures show that it is impossible for anywhere in the city to be dry. I felt so confused and I wanted to talk to someone that would give me a straight story. I finally got ahold of my roommate a month later and she said that it was the twilight zone.

S.G.: So your roommate is ok then?

K.H.: Yeah she's ok and she is there. She said a week after, every shop you wanted to shop in was open and you could just go in there get stuff. Not open for shopping but for looting. There was no one there and stores were just open. My roommate

went to get groceries because she was hungry and she didn't know if they were going to bring in food.

S.G.: You definitely bring zeal to UAS. What made you change your hair color so many times?

K.H.: I should start out with why I did the Mohawk. I got to New Orleans and I decided that I didn't want dreadlocks anymore, which is what I had when I left here. I cut my hair off by myself with my own scissors in my bathroom. I have been

dying to try a Mohawk, so I let my hair grow. When it finally grew I dyed it red, orange, and yellow so it looked like flames. Of course my friend who wanted to be mean to me called me "Chicken Little." Everyone else thought it looked really good.

After I did that and got that re-

sponse I tried some more colors: jet black, blue and purple alternating, orange that matched my dress at my cousin's wedding, hot pink. Some of it was people encouraging me to try another color and sometimes it was me wanting to try another color.

S.G.: What color will your hair be next and why?

K.H.: This is a toughie because I almost want to go back to the hot pink. People seem to respond to that the best and it was really vibrant. I am also thinking hot pink because I have hot pink boots that I want to wear with my hair. So it is a 80 percent chance that the next color will be hot pink.

S.G.: If there was one thing you wanted people to know about you, what would it be?

K.H.: I don't bite.

S.G.: What is your main philosophy in life?

K.H.: Do what you would have done to you. I would never do something to somebody that I wouldn't do for myself.

S.G.: This is your final semester at UAS. What advice would you give to those just starting or to those who are ready to quit?

K.H.: For those who are starting, make friends in every department because whatever happens at UAS you have one source in the relevant place to get it solved. For those who are thinking of quitting, UAS is good but it is not the end.

Don't write off UAS as a waste of time, it provides education as a university but also as a life experience in terms of how to be in an institution where things aren't going the best for you but you have to work through it. You have to figure out how to tough it out and endure.

S.G.: Is there anything you would like to add?

K.H.: Travel light and live long. F the man. 

